

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 11335 261555Z

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ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCS-03 SCA-01 H-03 NEAE-00 SSO-00 PA-04

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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3491

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 11335

FOLLOWING MESSAGE RECEIVED FROM CALCUTTA AUGUST 26

EMBASSY CONCURS IN PROPOSED CHANGES TO PRESS GUIDANCE.

QUOTE: CALCUTTA 1739

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC, PFOR, IN

SUBJ: HARCOS/FLETCHER: PRESS GUIDANCE

REF: STATE 186242

1. SUGGEST FOLLOWING SUBSTITUTE FOR ANSWER TO QUESTION IN
PARA 2: "WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE TRIAL JUDGE HAS APPROVED IN
PRINCIPLE THEIR BEING RELEASED FROM JAIL AND PLACED UNDER
A FORM OF HOUSE ARREST, AND THAT A PRESENT SUITABLE QUARTERS,
WHICH MUST BE APPROVED BY THE POLICE, ARE BEING SOUGHT."

2. IN ANSWER TO THE QUESTION IN PARA 4, I WOULD THINK IT
PREFERABLE TO DELETE THE SECOND SENTENCE.

3. RECOMMEND FOLLOWING SUBSTITUTE ANSWER FOR QUESTION IN
PARA 7: "WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE DEFENDANTS AND THEIR LAWYERS
HAVE NOT BEEN INFORMED OF THE SPECIFIC CHARGES BROUGHT AGAINST
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PAGE 02 NEW DE 11335 261555Z

THEM AS YET. WE ASSUME THAT THEY WILL BE SO INFORMED SOME

TIME BEFORE THE BEGINNING OF THE TRIAL, NOW SCHEDULED FOR
SEPTEMBER 9. WE CANNOT COMMENT ON POSSIBLE CHARGES EXCEPT TO
NOTE THAT LAWYERS FOR THE TWO MEN HAVE SAID THEY WERE
ENGAGED IN DRUG SMUGGLING." COMMENT: THE DEFENSE LAWYERS
EXPECT TO BE ABLE TO SEE THE DOCUMENTATION OF THE PROSECUTION'S
CASE ON SEPTEMBER 5, ALTHOUGH PROSECUTION IS STILL
OPPOSING THIS. IF THEY DO SEE THESE MATERIALS, THEY WILL
KNOW IN EFFECT WHAT THE CHARGES WILL BE, ALTHOUGH THE
PROSECUTION WILL CERTAINLY MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO SEE THEY
ARE NOT PUBLICIZED. WE SHOULD AVOID LEADING THE NEWSMEN TO
EXPECT THAT WE CAN TELL THEM ABOUT THE CHARGES AFTER ANY
GIVEN DATE. ALTHOUGH WE HOPE TO LEARN OF THEM, WE WILL HAVE
TO PROTECT OUR SOURCES SINCE ANYONE REVEALING DETAILS
OF AN IN CAMERA PROCEEDING MIGHT BE SUBJECT TO PROSECUTION.
ALSO, I THINK IT'S BETTER TO AVOID TECHNICAL PHRASEOLOGY SUCH
AS "FRAMING THE CHARGES" (THIS ALSO APPLIES TO MY SUGGESTED
CHANGE TO QUESTION IN PARA 4).
PICKERING UNQUOTE
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Message Attributes

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